

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces any and all prior claim lists.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended). Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles consisting of a hard coating and an edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical core characterized in that at least one layer of the hard coating is obtained from a liquid mixture of sorbitol and erythritol wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises ~~between~~ 60% w/w sorbitol and 40% w/w erythritol, said layer being in direct contact with said core to effect adhesion to said core; and said mixture forming a homogeneous layer.

Claims 2-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented). Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the core is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical tablets, chewing gum, confectionery product, chocolate and nut.

Claim 7 (previously presented). Sugar-free hard-coated according to claim 1, wherein said hard coating has a smooth, regular surface.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (previously presented). Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein said sugar-free hard-coated comestible has a pharmaceutical core.

Claim 10 (previously presented). Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein said hard coating comprises at least one of binding agent, dispersing agent, film former, coloring agent or flavoring agent.

Claims 11-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (previously presented). Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the hard coating consists of from 1 to 100 layers at least one of which comprises said mixture.

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (previously presented). Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 10, wherein the hard coating consists of from 1 to 100 layers at least one of which comprises said mixture.

Claims 17 and 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (previously presented). A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 1, wherein said at least one layer is a first formed on said core, and additional layers in said hard coating are formed from a member selected from the group consisting of said liquid mixture and single polyols.

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (previously presented). A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 1, wherein said hard coating is formed from a syrup.

Claim 22 (previously presented). A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 1, wherein said hard coating is formed from a liquid mixture.

Claim 23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (previously presented). A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 1, wherein said syrup or said liquid mixture contains at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of artificial sweeteners, dispersing agents, coloring agents, film formers, binding agents and flavoring agents.

Claims 25-38 (canceled).